Docket No.: IVGN 616

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Michael BITTNER et al.

Application No.: 09/766,273 Confirmation No.: 1332

Filed: January 18, 2001 Art Unit: 1634

For: OLIGONUCLEOTIDE-TAGGED

SEMICONDUCTOR NANOCRYSTALS FOR MICROARRAY AND FLUORESCENCE IN

SITU HYBRIDIZATION

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Examiner: R. Crow

MS RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) for the above-referenced application. A Final Office Action dated January 10, 2008, for which a response was due on April 10, 2008. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a three months extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to July 10, 2008. Accordingly, this Response is timely filed.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 8 of this paper.